Aboriginal Relations

Annual Report
2014-15

Alberta Government

Aboriginal Relations

Annual Report
2014-15

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Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Fiscal Management Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 19 ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta contains the consolidated financial statements of the province and *Measuring Up* report, which compares actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's strategic plan.

This annual report of the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations contains the audited financial statements of the ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan. This ministry annual report also includes other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Fiscal Management Act*, either as separate reports or as a part of the financial statements, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report.

Message from the Minister of Aboriginal Relations

The Government of Alberta is committed to a new relationship with Aboriginal peoples, working together to ensure that Aboriginal peoples and families are healthy, educated, safe, and fully able to participate in Alberta's social and economic life.

Alberta has a bright future that will encompass the desire of Aboriginal peoples to have the same opportunities of all Albertans – lives filled with hope, promise and prosperity for both present and future generations.

It is with great honour and optimism that I take on the role of Minister of Aboriginal Relations. As Minister, I look forward to learning from Aboriginal leadership and community members, working with our partners across government, and renewing our relationship with Aboriginal peoples based on openness, respect and integrity.

[Original signed by Kathleen Ganley, Minister of Aboriginal Relations]

Kathleen Ganley
Minister of Aboriginal Relations

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The executives within the ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the ministry. Collectively, the executives ensure the ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and strategic plan, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the financial statements and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Aboriginal Relations. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, including financial statements and performance results. The financial statements and the performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliability – information agrees with underlying data and the sources used to prepare it.
- Understandability and Comparability – current results are presented clearly in accordance with the stated methodology and are comparable with previous results.
- Completeness – performance measures and targets match those included in Budget 2014.

As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I am responsible for the Ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The Ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control which give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under ministry administration;
- provide Executive Council, the President of Treasury Board, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Aboriginal Relations information needed to fulfil their responsibilities; and
- facilitate preparation of ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Fiscal Management Act*.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives within the ministry.

[Original signed by Donavon Young, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations]

Donavon Young
Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations

June 12, 2015

RESULTS ANALYSIS

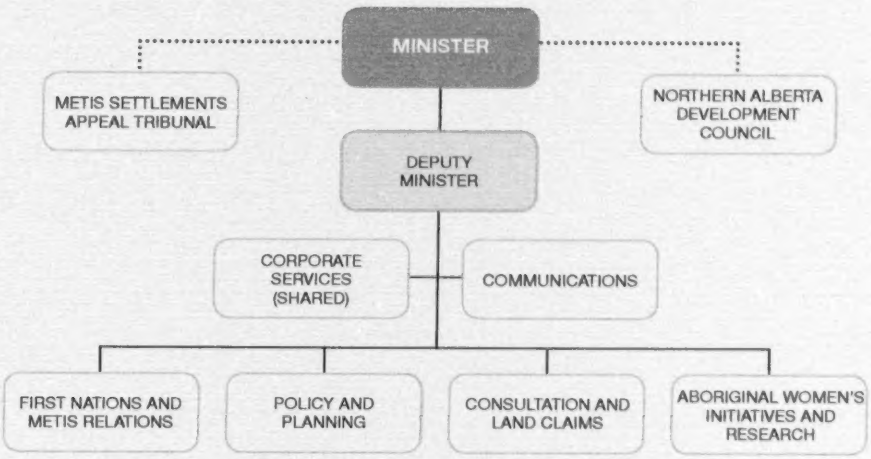
Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations acts as a focal point for the province's relationships with First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities and organizations in Alberta. The ministry also provides funding to the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal and Northern Alberta Development Council, both of which are accountable to the Minister.

Organizational Structure

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations organizational structure as of March 31, 2015 is outlined in Figure 1. As of March 31, 2015, the ministry included four operational divisions and two supporting divisions.

FIGURE 1 » **MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS 2014-15 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**



Ministry Divisions

The responsibilities of the ministry divisions are as follows.

First Nations and Metis Relations

Builds government-to-government and community-based relationships with First Nations, the Metis Settlements General Council, and the Metis Nation of Alberta Association. In its work, First Nations and Metis Relations facilitates engagement between the Government of Alberta,

Aboriginal governments, organizations, northern communities, and individuals, and provides advice on policies, priorities and programs affecting them. It also works with willing First Nations and Metis communities and other partners to strengthen Aboriginal participation in Alberta's social and economic opportunities. The division facilitates economic partnerships, administers the First Nations Development Fund and Alberta's unique Metis Settlements legislation and provides support for the 2013 flood recovery efforts on affected First Nations. First Nations and Metis Relations also works to share knowledge and information about Aboriginal peoples' histories, cultures and modern aspirations and helps to build cultural competence within the Government of Alberta.

Consultation and Land Claims

Manages and oversees all substantive aspects of the First Nations consultation process, including determining if the duty to consult is triggered; assessing which First Nations to consult and at what depth; ensuring that First Nations are provided with sufficient information to describe the proposed decision or activity; considering information on First Nation concerns specific to the project or initiative; and assessing what, if any, accommodation is required. The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) was created under the *Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management, 2013* to carry out these functions in a way that is efficient, coordinated and consistent. The ACO also directs consultation with Metis communities on a case-by-case basis where a project has the potential to adversely impact the exercise of credibly asserted Metis Aboriginal rights, such as hunting and fishing for food. Land Claims coordinates Alberta's involvement in Treaty Land Entitlement claims.

Aboriginal Women's Initiatives and Research

Leads department actions to improve social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal women in Alberta. The division is responsible for working with the First Nations Women's Economic Security Council and the Metis Women's Economic Security Council to advance council recommendations within government on how to achieve greater economic security for Aboriginal women. The division also leads the Alberta Aboriginal Intern Program. This program supports interns in their ministry placements and coordinates placements with community partners to provide interns with tangible learning, work experience and professional development. The program facilitates cultural exchange and builds relationships among government, Aboriginal peoples and stakeholders.

Policy and Planning

Provides strategic support to the ministry in influencing Government of Alberta's policy with regards to economic and social issues of Aboriginal people and communities, and intergovernmental relations. The division provides policy support and advice regarding ministry initiatives and other interdepartmental work. The division is also responsible for fulfilling the ministry's various corporate planning, reporting and performance measurement requirements.

Corporate Services

Provides shared services with the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations, with the exception of the First Nations Development Fund Audit team. This division provides

essential corporate services and infrastructure in the areas of Finance and Administration, First Nations Development Fund Auditing, Human Resource Services, Information Management and Information Technology and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy.

Communications

Provides professional communication services, strategic advice, planning, implementation and support to communicate ministry and government direction, policy and programs to Albertans, other governments, stakeholders and partners.

Ministerial Relationships

The ministry is also responsible for the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal and the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal

Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal (MSAT) is a quasi-judicial body established by the *Metis Settlements Act* that mediates and adjudicates disputes on Metis Settlements in regards to membership, land and surface access. MSAT is comprised of seven members; three appointed by the Minister of Aboriginal Relations, three appointed by the Metis Settlements General Council, and a Chair appointed by the Minister from a list provided by the Metis Settlements General Council. The appointments are made by letter and do not require a Ministerial Order or an Order in Council. The process for selecting candidates is done through an independent joint-review panel, using a competency-based process. Funding, administrative support and staffing are provided by the department. The current Chair of MSAT is Lorne Dustow, a member of Fishing Lake Metis Settlement.

Northern Alberta Development Council

The purpose of Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC), as set out in the *Northern Alberta Development Council Act*, is to investigate, monitor, evaluate, plan and promote practical measures to foster and advance general development in northern Alberta and to advise the Government of Alberta accordingly. NADC is comprised of nine public members appointed by Order in Council and an MLA Chair. Council membership reflects the geographic, cultural and vocational diversity of Alberta's northern communities. Administrative support and staffing are provided by the department. NADC makes recommendations regarding social and economic development of communities and service delivery and development of government services and programs.

Role of the Ministry

The ministry continues to define its role to provide more clarity for both staff and stakeholders. The role of the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations is to:

- build government-to-government and community-based relationships;
- serve as a leader and advisor to the Government of Alberta and Aboriginal and northern communities on policies, priorities and programs;
- support strategic priority setting for the Government of Alberta;

- facilitate Government of Alberta engagement with Aboriginal and northern communities;
- foster continuous improvement of Government of Alberta programs and services;
- support capacity building;
- identify opportunities to work with Aboriginal communities on their priorities;
- share knowledge and information and Aboriginal peoples' histories, cultures, aspirations and help build cultural competence within the Government of Alberta;
- balance competing interests and provide recommendations;
- work towards reconciling Aboriginal rights, First Nations Treaty rights and Aboriginal traditional uses with the interests of all Albertans;
- deliver programs and services;
- provide consultation management services to meet the needs of Government of Alberta ministries, First Nations, the Alberta Energy Regulator and project proponents; and
- uphold the honour of the Crown with respect to the legal duty to consult on Aboriginal and Treaty rights as described under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Review Engagement Report

AUDITOR GENERAL *Alberta*

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

I reviewed one of two performance measures in the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations' Annual Report 2014–2015. The reviewed performance measure is the responsibility of the ministry and is prepared based on the following criteria:

- *Reliability*—The information used in applying performance measure methodology agrees with underlying source data for the current and prior years' results.
- *Understandability*—The performance measure methodology and results are presented clearly.
- *Comparability*—The methodology for performance measure preparation is applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- *Completeness*—The goal, performance measure and related target match those included in the ministry's budget 2014.

My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and, accordingly, consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the ministry.

A review does not constitute an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the performance measure. Further, my review was not designed to assess the relevance and sufficiency of the reviewed performance measure in demonstrating ministry progress towards the related goal.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the performance measure identified as reviewed by the Office of the Auditor General in the ministry's annual report 2014–2015 is not, in all material respects, presented in accordance with the criteria of reliability, understandability, comparability and completeness as described above.

[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher, FCA]

Auditor General

May 14, 2015
Edmonton, Alberta

Performance measure reviewed by the Office of the Auditor General is marked with an asterisk (*) on the Performance Measures Summary Table.

Performance Measures Summary Table

GOALS/ PERFORMANCE MEASURES		PRIOR YEARS RESULTS				TARGET	CURRENT ACTUAL
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14		2014-15
1. Aboriginal communities and people fully participate in Alberta's economy and society							
1.a	Economic initiatives: • Number of Aboriginal strategic economic development initiatives, partnerships and capacity building projects[1]	34	34	49	51	34	41
2. Alberta's coordinated approach to Aboriginal consultation and land claims enhances resource development certainty							
2.a	Percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map to support the consultation process[2]*	0%	0%	0%	33%	60%	69%

[1] The higher 2012-13 result reflects an overall strategic approach to increase the number of partners working together to enhance Aboriginal economic participation. The 2014-15 target is consistent with the average of actual results over the last five years.

[2] The performance measure title in the business plan was reported as "Percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map developed to support the consultation process" and has been modified to "Percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map to support the consultation process" to clarify that the maps are subject to change over time.

* Indicates Performance Measures that have been reviewed by the Office of the Auditor General.

The performance measure indicated with an asterisk was selected for review by ministry management based on the following criteria established by government:

- enduring measures that best represent the goal,
- measures for which new data is available, and
- measures that have well established methodology.

Methodology, Data Sources and Results

Economic Projects

1.a Economic Initiatives:

- ***Number of Aboriginal strategic economic development initiatives, partnerships and capacity building projects***

This measure is calculated based on the number of approved projects for grant programs. Applicants may include First Nations, Tribal/Regional Councils, First Nations companies and organizations, Metis organizations and non-government organizations that directly promote economic capacity-building in Aboriginal communities. Non-Aboriginal applicants may also be considered where there is demonstrated Aboriginal support.

Overall, the measure demonstrates how the ministry supports Aboriginal organizations, communities and people to fully participate in Alberta's economy. There were 41 Aboriginal economic projects supported during 2014-15, which significantly exceeded the business plan target of 34 projects. This achievement is partially credited to the program's efforts in bringing more partners together, such as the federal government and industry, to fund a greater number of projects. This approach led to increased opportunities for additional funding, an increased uptake of the program by Aboriginal communities and organizations, a greater number of projects being funded and more partners working together to enhance Aboriginal participation in the economy.

While the 2014-15 result of 41 economic projects did exceed its target, the result was down by 10 economic projects compared to the 2013-14 result of 51. This difference was a result of Aboriginal Economic Partnerships receiving fewer economic project proposals than in 2013-14. Therefore the program was able to provide larger amounts of funding to individual economic projects.

2.a Percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map to support the consultation process

The GeoData Mapping Project is designed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of First Nations consultation. Through this project, the ministry compiles specific geographic information to better understand First Nations' activities on the land and to inform the Government of Alberta and project proponents about which First Nations should be consulted regarding specific resource development projects. The maps serve as a centralized source of information and an internal operational tool, enabling the Aboriginal Consultation Office to direct consultation activities by industry and the Government of Alberta proponents in an efficient and effective way.

The GeoData Mapping Project was officially initiated in October 2007. Between 2007 and 2009, effort went into the beginning phase of this project, including project planning, internal file reviews and notification to First Nations.

During the engagement phase between 2009 and 2013, discussion maps were created which outlined Alberta's analysis of First Nations' areas of interest for potential notification and consultation on resource development projects. The discussion maps were a starting point to engage with and seek input from First Nations. During this phase, introductory meetings were held with 42 willing First Nations, indicating First Nations' agreement to continue to be engaged in the project. This is a significant project milestone because it recognizes the importance of First Nations' participation in drafting GeoData maps. Alberta is the first jurisdiction in Canada to embark on such a project.

A GeoData map contains information about the area over which a First Nation traditionally hunted, fished and trapped and other activities that are of cultural importance to a First Nation and continue to be today. This information may be in the form of:

- hunting, fishing and trapping areas and access routes to such areas;
- historic resources that could fall under the *Historical Resources Act*;
- sites or areas where community gatherings for cultural purposes occur; and
- information on how sites and areas used today relate to those traditionally used in the past.

This measure presents the percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map. The results for the fiscal year are calculated by dividing the total number of First Nations with a GeoData map by the total number of First Nations in Alberta. If the result is not a whole number, the result is rounded to the highest whole number.

A GeoData map is included in the performance measure calculation once the map has been reviewed and authorized by the managers of Aboriginal Relations, signalling the map is ready to be used to support operational decision making. However, Alberta recognizes that First Nations' use of land is dynamic and evolving; therefore a GeoData map is a living document. Further refinement can be made in light of additional information from a First Nation or from the Government of Alberta.

The current result of 33 First Nations or 69 per cent of First Nations with a GeoData map exceeded the 2014-15 target of 60 per cent. This year's result of 69 per cent is an increase from the previous year's result by 36 percentage points. This increase is because the GeoData map was still in its infancy stage in 2013-14. Also, the result of the GeoData map is calculated by adding on the number of First Nations that have a GeoData map in the current year to the previous year's results. The ministry has been successful in the development of the GeoData map because there are a number of First Nations coming forward to assist with this work. The measure demonstrates the ministry's efforts in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of First Nations consultation.

NOTE: The performance measure title in the business plan was reported as "Percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map developed to support the consultation process" and has been modified to "Percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map to support the consultation process" to clarify that the maps are subject to change over time.

Discussion and Analysis of Results

In 2014-15, Aboriginal Relations worked with Aboriginal communities and organizations, and other Government of Alberta ministries through strengthening relationships, bridging the socio-economic gap, enhancing meaningful First Nations participation in the duty to consult process, increasing Aboriginal participation in resource development and finding better approaches to land management and environmental issues.

Aboriginal Relations continued to work with Aboriginal communities to advance the long-term social, economic and cultural well-being of Aboriginal people and communities. In collaboration with other ministries, Aboriginal Relations continued to lead Alberta's efforts in First Nations flood recovery and mitigation by assisting Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nations in southern Alberta with the rebuild and repair of their homes and infrastructure, including skills development opportunities for First Nations. The ministry took part in the Alberta-First Nations Education Summit in March 2015. The Alberta-First Nations Education Summit was attended by the Government of Alberta and First Nations to discuss the achievement gap that exists between First Nations students and other Alberta students. In addition, the ministry works to improve educational outcomes for First Nations students, and increase economic partnerships.

The ministry also supports the well-being of Aboriginal women. In March 2015, the First Nations and Metis Women's Economic Security Councils' 2014 Reports and Recommendations with government responses were tabled. The Reports and Recommendations provided advice on improving the economic security of Aboriginal women in Alberta. In response to the Recommendations, the government has committed to several actions to ensure that Recommendations are undertaken.

The duty to consult is an important obligation that the ministry manages on behalf of the Government of Alberta. Aboriginal Relations continues to focus on providing support to First Nations with regards to consultation, building capacity and participation in land management and environmental issues. Discussions on consultation with First Nations and Metis, industry and other stakeholder are ongoing. The *Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management*, 2013 *(Policy)* became effective on July 28, 2014 with the release of the *Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management (Guidelines)*. To complement and facilitate the implementation of the *Policy* and *Guidelines*, the ACO also released the *Government of Alberta's Proponent Guide to First Nations Consultation Procedures for Land Dispositions (Proponent Guide)* to describe the procedures for land disposition applications processed through the Electronic Disposition System. The ministry understands the importance of developing a Metis Settlement Consultation Policy and continues to work with individual Settlements to increase their capacity to participate in the consultation process.

In May 2014, the Government of Alberta provided $5.6 million as well as 19 modular homes to the Lubicon Lake Band as an interim measure to address the housing situation in Little Buffalo. In October 2014, the former Premier met with Chief Laboucan and his Council to hear their community priorities. During the meeting, in addition to a commitment to a renewed dialogue on the settlement of the Lubicon Lake Band land claim, an agreement was reached to hold future discussions on the topics of education, employment training and skills development.

Aboriginal Relations Performance Measurement Framework

The Government of Alberta has been using performance measurement as a way to demonstrate results and outcomes. In October 2013, a commitment was made to Public Accounts that the ministry would continue its efforts to identify new performance measures and demonstrate progress towards achieving business plan outcomes and objectives.

In April 2014, the ministry embarked on a project to develop an Aboriginal Relations Performance Measurement Framework. Feedback from identified individuals from Aboriginal communities and groups as well as colleagues from other Government of Alberta ministries informed the finalization of the performance measurement framework. As a result of these collaborative efforts, five new performance measures and seven performance indicators were developed for inclusion in the 2015-20 Aboriginal Relations Business Plan. The Aboriginal Relations Performance Measurement Framework was completed in March 2015.

The seven performance indicators focus on Aboriginal peoples' socio-economic well-being and assess far reaching outcomes that are highly influenced by multiple external factors. Aboriginal Relations recognizes that other Government of Alberta ministries are primarily responsible for education, employment and health outcomes. By raising awareness of the circumstances of Aboriginal peoples, the ministry can support the Government of Alberta in developing a more strategic and systematic approach to policy decision-making and programs and service delivery related to Aboriginal peoples.

Goal One: Aboriginal communities and people fully participate in Alberta's economy and society

The ministry's activities support effective relationships, policies and initiatives that are directed at supporting healthy, vibrant Aboriginal communities and people. The ministry provides leadership on Aboriginal policy and oversees agreements between the Government of Alberta and Aboriginal governments and organizations. By building relationships with other ministries, Aboriginal communities and organizations, industry, governments and other partners, Aboriginal Relations strengthens economic and social opportunities for Aboriginal people in Alberta. Aboriginal Relations provides advice, guidance and specialized knowledge to other ministries, governments and industry and collaborates with Aboriginal communities and organizations. The ministry also administers Alberta's Metis Settlements legislation and funds Metis Settlements governance entities, and manages the First Nations Development Fund.

Relationships

The ministry leads Alberta's relations with First Nations and Metis peoples and communities. These relations are shaped by many factors, including historical events and the Canadian Constitution, which recognizes and affirms that First Nations and some Metis people and communities have unique rights. Alberta has established a variety of mechanisms to discuss issues of mutual concern with First Nations and Metis people. These mechanisms are based on the foundation of government-to-government First Nations and Metis Settlement relations. This concept is critical as it recognizes their authority to govern and their responsibility for meeting the needs of their communities. The ministry helps coordinate provincial participation in government-to-government relationships and the implementation of initiatives with Aboriginal organizations.

First Nations Opportunities Forum and Alberta–First Nations Education Summit

In December 2014, Aboriginal Relations hosted the third annual First Nations Opportunities Forum. During the forum, it was agreed by the Government of Alberta and First Nations that meeting collectively once per year was not enough time to identify, or meaningfully address, issues together. A commitment was made by the Government of Alberta to work with First Nations on opportunities to address issues, which included the identification of short-term actions and the development of collaborative approaches for promoting understanding and cooperation to address long-term challenges.

The Alberta-First Nations Education Summit was held on March 13, 2015. First Nations from across the province and provincial government representatives gathered to discuss reducing the educational achievement gap between First Nations students and other Alberta students. This summit demonstrated Alberta's commitment to working in partnership with First Nations Chiefs to help reduce the achievement gap.

Metis Settlements Governance and Funding Arrangements

The *Long-Term Governance and Funding Arrangements* Agreement (LTA) is a $113.5 million, ten year commitment of the Government of Alberta and Metis Settlements (of the $113.5 million,

$85 million was from the Government of Alberta and $28.5 million was from the Metis Settlements General Council) based on mutually agreed upon areas. The LTA is designed to address the following key issues:

- strengthen Metis Settlement governance and enhance accountability;
- contribute to the long-term sustainability of Metis Settlement communities; and
- establish a fiscal relationship between the province and the Settlements similar to what the province has with other local governments.

The Metis Settlements will contribute $28.5 million over the term of the LTA to cost share initiatives in the areas of housing and infrastructure. In accordance with the LTA, $10 million was provided to the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) in 2014-15. An additional $3 million, outside of the LTA, was provided by the Ministry of Transportation. Examples of funding included:

- $1 million to increase Settlement capacity;
- $4.6 million for infrastructure projects;
- $1.2 million towards dedicated Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers for each of the eight Metis Settlements; and
- over $400,000 for education.

Key LTA achievements in 2014-15 included:

- A training and certification program for Settlement administrators was developed and implemented through the University of Alberta to strengthen Settlement governance and accountability.
- A community engagement process initiated as part of an effort towards improving the Kindergarten to Grade 12 educational experience, and improving attainment levels of Metis Settlement children and youth to increase education, employment, and economic opportunities.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education, funding was provided for the Metis Settlements to expand the Community Adult Literacy Program to all eight Metis Settlements.
- Improvements to infrastructure and essential services, water and wastewater infrastructure, roads, and solid waste infrastructure assessments were completed for all eight Metis Settlements.

On June 30, 2014, the Joint Accountability Review Committee submitted its final report titled *Recommendations on Accountability, Enforcement, and Public Interests Provisions by the Joint Accountability Review Committee* to Aboriginal Relations and the MSGC. The report contained a review of the accountability provisions in the *Metis Settlements Act* and Metis Settlements General Council Policies as required by Schedule "D" of the LTA. It also contained 70 recommendations on how accountability could be strengthened and enhanced on Settlements and at the MSGC.

A review of the implementation of the Metis Settlements Policing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Local Service Policing Agreements was initiated in March 2015. The MOU was

signed by the RCMP and the MSGC in October 2013 and provided one dedicated RCMP officer for each of the eight Settlements. The review will be conducted jointly by Justice and Solicitor General, the RCMP and the MSGC and should be concluded by late spring 2015.

Metis Nation of Alberta Association

The Metis Nation of Alberta Association (MNNA) is a representative organization of Metis Albertans. In 1987, Alberta and the MNAA signed the first Framework Agreement, which has been renewed several times. The 2008-15 Framework Agreement entered its final year in 2014. The Framework Agreement was designed to increase economic opportunities and improve community and individual well-being of Metis people. A joint review process has begun with the MNAA to assess strengths and challenges of the 2008-15 Framework Agreement, as well as the identification of potential interests and priorities beyond 2015. This joint review is intended to inform the development of a renewed relationship and agreement between the Government of Alberta and the MNAA.

Aboriginal Relations provided $200,000, as a part of the $1 million cross-ministry initiative, to fund the MNAA's completion of phase two expansion of the Metis Crossing. The Metis Crossing is Canada's first and only major Metis cultural interpretive centre. It also contributes to Metis business development and tourism.

Aboriginal Relations worked with the Government of Canada and the MNAA to implement the Tripartite Agreement. The Tripartite Agreement provides a mechanism for the three parties to coordinate and have an ongoing forum for dialogue on issues of common interest. In 2014-15, the completion of work on the Tripartite Agreement focused on target initiatives intended to improve the MNAA's corporate operations and further develop social, health and economic development strategies.

Aboriginal Affairs Working Group

Alberta works with other provinces and the National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs) through the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG). The AAWG is composed of provincial and territorial Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs as well as leaders from the five NAOs: the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), Metis National Council (MNC) and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC). The AAWG was formed in 2009 by Premiers and the leaders of the five NAOs to work together to more effectively improve outcomes for First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples. Alberta also works bilaterally with other provinces and territories outside of the AAWG on issues of mutual interest.

Over the last year, the AAWG has been working on issues related to Aboriginal economic development, education, ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls, First Nations emergency management and disaster mitigation, and Aboriginal housing. The information-sharing and learning that Alberta has access to from the experiences of AAWG members has helped informed local initiatives with Aboriginal communities in Alberta to further their economic and social well-being. Notwithstanding the involvement of Alberta in the AAWG, Alberta's strategies and initiatives are developed with and by local Aboriginal communities as these Alberta Aboriginal communities are the best decision-makers on issues that affect them.

The National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls took place on February 27, 2015. As a result, both governments and Aboriginal groups across the country made a commitment to participate in a national public awareness campaign to end violence against Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. In 2015, Manitoba will host a forum on police and justice responses on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. All participants, including the Government of Alberta, have agreed to meet again in 2016.

National Aboriginal Day

In 1996, the Government of Canada declared June 21 of every year to be National Aboriginal Day to celebrate the contributions of Aboriginal people in Canadian society. National Aboriginal Day is celebrated across the country at numerous events held on or around June 21.

The ministry hosted the Government of Alberta's National Aboriginal Day celebration on June 19, 2014. This annual day of recognition celebrates the cultures and contributions that Aboriginal people share in the province. The ministry also provided financial support, through its grant program, to non-profit organizations across the province to hold National Aboriginal Day celebrations.

Bridging the Socio-Economic Gap

There is significant disparity between the socio-economic conditions of Aboriginal people and those of other Albertans. This gap is the widest between First Nations people living on reserves and other Albertans. Bridging the socio-economic gap will improve the quality of life for future generations of Aboriginal peoples, including First Nations people.

In 2014-15, Aboriginal Relations worked with Aboriginal communities and organizations and with other ministries, governments and partners to enhance participation of Aboriginal communities in Alberta's economy and society. The ministry focused on advancing the social, economic and cultural well-being of Aboriginal peoples, which focused on a range of economic and social policy areas, including economic partnerships, improving educational outcomes for First Nations students, economic initiatives for Aboriginal women and support for Aboriginal peoples living in urban areas. The ministry also administered the First Nations Development Fund which supports First Nations to implement economic, social and community development projects.

Lubicon Lake Band Housing

In May 2014, the Government of Alberta in partnership with Lubicon Lake Band Chief and Council provided $5.6 million as well as 19 modular homes to the community for an immediate housing project. This funding was allocated to focus on the following:

- build the appropriate infrastructure to support 19 modular homes;
- provide access to the existing county water main;
- explore the potential expansion of the existing sewage lagoon; and
- provide possible employment opportunities for First Nation businesses and members during the project.

The majority of the housing projects are complete with all 19 modular homes now on warranty and transitioned to the Lubicon Lake Band. Occupancy began in mid-October 2014. An assessment of the existing sewage lagoon was completed and it was discovered that expanding the existing sewage lagoon was not feasible. As a result, sewage trucks were provided by the federal government for the community to service the new units. The term of the grant agreement was extended by one year to allow the Band the remaining funds from the initial $5.6 million grant to install 13 additional housing units.

The Lubicon Lake Band Housing projects were a significant achievement of the province during 2014-15. Alberta responded to a community crisis in Lubicon and took an approach that was beyond traditional jurisdictional boundaries. This approach was an example of the Government of Alberta stepping in to address an urgent community need to improve the lives of First Nations members. Positive feedback has been received from the Lubicon Lake Band and other First Nations.

Flood Recovery Efforts with First Nations

The ministry continued to provide significant support to First Nations in response to the June 2013 floods in the areas of housing, social support, economic development and training. In order to address the complexity and to ensure collaboration, the ministry continued to work with the Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nations under the terms of the Memorandums of Understanding, signed in 2013.

The progress toward rebuilding and repairing housing on the Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nations continues. Inspections of homes on both First Nations indicated that the scope of the project needed to be increased. In June 2014, funding of $345 million over five years was approved by the Government of Alberta for the First Nations Flood Recovery Policy. The Policy was created to ensure that First Nations received flood recovery supports comparable to other Alberta communities, and commits the province to repair and rebuild all on-reserve houses that were impacted by the 2013 floods. It also provides for interim housing supports for evacuees while their homes are under construction.

Aboriginal Relations continued to work collaboratively with a number of different Government of Alberta ministries that are involved in the flood recovery efforts. The ministry worked closely with Human Services to ensure that First Nation members and businesses were receiving training and other supports so they could participate economically in the flood recovery efforts. The ministry also worked collaboratively with the Ministry of Health to help ensure that evacuees received community wellness supports. The Ministry of Health provided funding for community wellness supports, while Alberta Health Services provided counsellors and other support workers for psychosocial support and youth programming for First Nations peoples in medical facilities and schools. In March 2015, Siksika Nation held a Community Creating Resiliency Conference to provide workers and evacuees an opportunity to share and learn together about coping skills, emerging issues and success stories from the 2013 floods.

Included in the flood recovery Memorandums of Understanding is a provision to develop a training strategy and a procurement strategy to ensure that both Siksika and Stoney Nakoda

Nations have the opportunity to benefit economically from the repair and rebuild project. In April 2014, an employment centre was established on the Stoney Nakoda Nation to provide flood specific services to help clients access training and employment opportunities arising on-reserve. Approximately 250 Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nation members participated in the training to employment courses offered on the Nations. A number of members have already been employed both on- and off-reserve. More training and employment opportunities will be offered in 2015-16.

In July 2014, Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nations were each provided with an additional $50,000 in consultation capacity funding through the First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program as the southern flooding in 2013 caused interruption to consultation efforts. This funding supported the recruitment of additional personnel on each Nation to minimize the backlog of consultation referrals that occurred during the 2013 floods.

In 2014, the Siksika Nation took over project management of the entire flood recovery project on their Nation. The Rebuild Team, which was fully staffed by members of the First Nation, oversaw the rebuild and relocation of 136 homes identified as flood affected. There are two new temporary neighbourhoods currently in operation for interim housing, with a total of 144 mobile homes on site. There are also 58 flood-affected homes being utilized for interim housing which were repaired to a habitable state.

On November 14, 2014, a grand opening was held for the Highway 547 truss bridge, also known as the Chicago Bridge, which crosses over the Bow River. The bridge is crucial in connecting local communities and is the primary route for approximately 100 students who attend Arrowwood School. The Ministry of Transportation contributed $2.1 million for repair of the bridge.

On the Stoney Nakoda Nation, 954 home inspections were completed by July 2014. These inspections revealed that 550 homes were flood affected. Full house repairs began immediately and 91 homes have been fully repaired.

The extreme devastation caused by the June 2013 flooding in southern Alberta required an unprecedented level of response from the province to support the recovery of First Nations. The flood recovery project has been a complex project with a number of external and internal partners involved. The lessons learnt through the recovery process will be invaluable should the need arise to assist First Nations to recover from similar disasters.

First Nations and Metis Women's Economic Security Councils

In 2013, the Government of Alberta established the First Nations and Metis Women's Economic Security Councils to identify barriers to economic security of Aboriginal women and to bring advice and recommendations forward to the government and other interested stakeholders. Council members come from across Alberta and have a variety of professional and traditional knowledge experience. The First Nations Women's Council has 21 members including a representative from the Inuit community. The Metis Women's Council has 12 members including a representative from the Inuit community.

The First Nations and Metis Women's Economic Security Councils' advice on the social and economic needs of Aboriginal women in Alberta informed the work of a Government of Alberta cross-ministry committee whose purpose is to increase Aboriginal women's economic security. Based on presentations, literature reviews, research and collective experience, the Councils developed their Reports and Recommendations. The First Nations and Metis Women's Councils on Economic Security 2014 Reports and Recommendations were released on March 25, 2015, which included nine recommendations that were put forward to the government. The Reports and Recommendations focus on education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, improved navigation of health programs and services, and violence against Aboriginal women and girls, including the implementation of an anti-violence program for men and boys. Through participation on the Councils, Aboriginal women have been given a formal voice to discuss solutions to the barriers that often impact the attainment of economic security. The Councils ensure that Aboriginal women are better positioned to identify solutions to issues that impact them.

The experience of working with the Councils demonstrates the benefits of bringing members of Aboriginal communities together and seeking their views and advice to inform the Government of Alberta.

Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women

Aboriginal Relations and the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) continue to build relationships with Aboriginal women, in part through participation on the Increasing Safety Committee. The Committee consists of various government and community agencies and meets regularly to discuss ways to improve safety for Aboriginal women and girls. The ministry provided a $25,000 grant to the IAAW to support this ongoing work and assist with the 20th anniversary of the Esquao Awards to celebrate Aboriginal women in Alberta.

Moose Hide Campaign

The Moose Hide Campaign was launched on November 25, 2014. Aboriginal Relations partnered with the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association to take a stand against violence towards Aboriginal women and girls. The campaign asks men and boys wear a swatch of moose hide and take a pledge to honour the women and girls in their lives. The Woodland Cree First Nation donated a moose hide to the campaign and officially presented the hide to Aboriginal Relations. Roughly 4,000 moose hide swatches, assembled by Aboriginal inmates at the Pê Sâkâstêw Centre, have been distributed to Alberta Native Friendship Centres, government ministries and various organizations, agencies and stakeholders. The Moose Hide Campaign has flourished and inspired moose hide campaigns by other organizations across Alberta.

I Am A Kind Man

The Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association was given a $75,000 grant to implement and support the "I Am A Kind Man" program. "I Am A Kind Man" was created to engage Aboriginal

men and boys to speak out against abuse toward Aboriginal women. The four main components of the program are:

- providing education for men to address issues of abuse against women;
- re-establishing traditional responsibilities by acknowledging that Aboriginal teachings have never tolerated violence and abuse towards women;
- inspiring men to engage other men to get involved and stop the abuse; and
- supporting Aboriginal men who choose not to use violence.

Alberta Aboriginal Intern Program

The Alberta Aboriginal Intern Program is a two year program where interns complete a one year work term with the Government of Alberta ministry followed by a nine month work term with a community partner before returning back to the Government of Alberta ministry for the last three months of their internship. The program will offer a broad base of government knowledge to the interns, help community organizations increase capacity and enhance the government's cultural diversity and awareness. An Internship Advisory Committee is in place comprised of former interns, Aboriginal Elders, and a Corporate Human Services representative.

Economic Partnerships

Aboriginal Relations worked collaboratively with Aboriginal communities and organizations and provincial and federal government departments to encourage economic partnerships, strengthen economic capacity and support entrepreneurship.

Staff from Aboriginal Relations visited 33 Aboriginal communities across Alberta to support these efforts. Through the Aboriginal Economic Partnership program, the ministry provided approximately $2 million in grants to support 41 economic and socio-economic projects in 2014-15. This result significantly exceeded the business plan target of 34 projects due to the program's efforts to increase the number of partners working together to enhance Aboriginal participation in the economy. This approach has led to increased opportunities for additional funding, an uptake of the program by Aboriginal communities and organizations and more projects being funded.

Examples of economic partnership projects over the past year are described below:

- $90,000 in funding was provided to the Sucker Creek First Nation to support the identification of economic opportunities.
- $90,000 in funding to the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada to build governance and leadership capacity.
- $82,000 in funding was provided for the second year of the North East Alberta Apprenticeship Initiative Pilot to help improve employment outcomes of Aboriginal peoples in the trades.

- $75,000 in funding was used to support career decision-making and skills-enhancement workshops in six First Nations and Metis communities in Alberta through the Women Building Futures.
- $60,000 in program funding went to the Ermineskin Tribe to establish a wildland firefighting business.
- $90,500 in funding went towards the development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Woodland Cree First Nation.

Economic Opportunities Initiative

In 2014-15, Aboriginal Relations established the pilot Economic Opportunities Initiative to provide capital funding for First Nations businesses, which had not previously been available. This initiative complemented the Aboriginal Economic Partnerships program by providing $5 million to support six First Nation business development projects.

Examples of the projects supported by the Economic Opportunities Initiative are as follows:

- Siksika Entrepreneurial Development Fund will capitalize a Joint Venture agreement between Siksika Nation and the Indian Business Corporation (IBC). This agreement will see IBC establish a segregated fund for developmental lending to Siksika entrepreneurs pursuing business opportunities.
- Tsuu T'ina Business Park grant funding will assist Tsuu T'ina Nation with the Nation's Buffalo Run Business Park Infrastructure Project.
- Piikani Gravel Pit grant funding will support the Piikani First Nation large-scale development of a commercial gravel pit on the Nation, creating new jobs and a new revenue stream for the community.
- Blood Tribe Grocery Store grant funding will help the community to construct a grocery store that will provide affordable, fresh, healthy food products to First Nation members.
- Bearspaw and Chiniki First Nation grant funding will assist Stoney Nakoda Telecom to expand services to residences within the Morley and Eden Valley regions that currently do not have access to internet services.
- Bearspaw First Nation project funding was provided by Aboriginal Relations to support the construction of a travel centre in Morley.

Urban Aboriginal Initiatives

In May 2013, the former Minister of Aboriginal Relations and the Mayor of Edmonton signed the Memorandum of Coordination and Collaboration (MCC). The MCC acknowledges the important contributions made by the Aboriginal community and confirming the need for improved coordination and collaboration to increase opportunities for positive social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people living in Edmonton.

The MCC with the City of Edmonton generated four ongoing projects. These projects are in the priority areas of youth leadership and development, safe and secure communities, transitioning

to the City of Edmonton, economic development and supporting opportunities for women. These projects are being implemented in partnership with the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, Aksis (Edmonton's Aboriginal Business and Professional Association) and the Canadian Native Friendship Centre.

Aboriginal Relations continued to lead the Urban Aboriginal Integrated Service Delivery Approach cross-ministry committee. This committee is composed of members from the Government of Alberta, Government of Canada, Aboriginal organizations and municipal government. A work plan was developed in 2014 to implement 10 strategies, including Aboriginal awareness training for Government of Alberta staff, the creation of transition toolkits (in current development in Edmonton and Calgary) and the formation of additional municipal partnerships in Alberta, which are in discussions.

Aboriginal Relations continued to work with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Alberta Native Friendship Centre Association to implement regional and community planning for urban initiatives. In 2014-15, 15 community engagement sessions were held across Alberta with sessions in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Red Deer and Edmonton. The top three priorities identified were housing, education and culture. Aboriginal Relations provided $480,000 in funding for 10 urban projects. The 10 projects supported the ministry in addressing issues related to transitions to urban centres, coordination of urban Aboriginal community planning, evaluation of friendship centres, addressing domestic violence, promoting entrepreneurship, and researching and developing an Aboriginal women and girls leadership program.

The ministry also supported the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) by providing $757,000 in funding. The ANFCA used this funding to support the organizational capacity of the 20 friendship centres in Alberta by providing each centre with $26,000 in funding, as well as providing support services such as board development training. Friendship centres' activities vary, but most provide gathering places for Aboriginal people, programs, and services centred on Aboriginal values and cultures, as well as referrals to other programs and services. The friendship centres use funding to support operations in priority areas of transition, employment and training, housing, children and families, and education.

First Nations Development Fund

The First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) is part of the Government of Alberta's First Nations Gaming Policy. Both the Policy and the Fund were developed and endorsed through a collaborative process with Alberta First Nations. The FNDF Grant Program provides an important source of financial support for First Nations' economic, social and community development projects.

Funding from the FNDF Grant Program may only be used for economic, social and community development projects, such as education, health and infrastructure programs. All applications must clearly demonstrate this eligibility and grant funds can only be used for projects approved by Aboriginal Relations. In 2014-15, FNDF provided $128.8 million to support 325 community-based and community-designed programs.

Examples include:

- $25,000 for a Maskwacis Veteran's monument at Samson Cree Nation;
- $53,000 for emergency fire response at Horse Lake First Nation;
- $100,000 to provide a hockey camp for youth at Fort McKay First Nation;
- $350,000 to support a worker's opportunity program at Whitefish Lake First Nation;
- $470,000 to provide funds for a housing renovation project at Loon River First Nation; and
- $6,137,000 to fund the hotel portion of the Tsuu T'ina Nation's multi-year Grey Eagle Resort and Casino construction project.

In September 2014, the FNDF Grant Program hosted the Sixth Annual Community Development Workshop at the Grey Eagle Resort and Casino located in Tsuu T'ina Nation. Over 90 participants from 27 First Nations and the Government of Alberta participated. The workshop supported capacity building and created networking opportunities for First Nations involved with the FNDF grant program.

Goal Two: Alberta's coordinated approach to Aboriginal consultation and land claims enhances resource development certainty

The province has a duty to consult when constitutionally protected rights may be adversely affected by Crown decisions on land management and resource development. To ensure the duty to consult is met, the ministry operates the expanded Aboriginal Consultation Office which centralizes much of the Government of Alberta's functions in relation to Aboriginal consultation and leads the implementation of the First Nations Consultation Policy. The ministry also supports First Nations to enhance their capacity to participate in land management and resource development consultations through the First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program (FNCCIP). In addition, Alberta continues to develop GeoData maps with First Nations' input to help guide decisions related to consultation on resource development projects and facilitate more consistent notification for consultation. Lastly, the ministry coordinates Alberta's participation in settling Treaty Land Entitlement claims. These initiatives support land management and resource development certainty, increased First Nations capacity and greater economic competitiveness.

Participation in Resource Development and Land Management

Aboriginal Consultation Office

The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) was established to provide consultation management services to meet the needs of Government of Alberta ministries, First Nations, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and project proponents in a way that is efficient, coordinated and consistent. The ACO has the following objectives:

- uphold the honour of the Crown with respect to First Nations consultation for land and natural resource management matters in alignment with the Government of Alberta priorities;
- clearly discharge the legal duty of the Crown and ensure that the Government of Alberta works towards reconciling First Nations Treaty rights and traditional uses and the interests of all Albertans;
- ensure consistency, certainty, and predictability with clear roles and a standardized process that First Nations, proponents and the Crown can follow; and
- enhance relationships with the federal and provincial governments, leading to a coordinated approach to First Nations consultation.

The ACO regularly communicates and collaborates with other Government of Alberta ministries to identify and resolve issues related to Alberta's First Nations consultation process.

The ACO works with other Government of Alberta ministries to improve communication and coordination through initiatives such as Alberta's Integrated Resource Management System (IRMS). Alberta's new IRMS ensures the impacts of Alberta's growth in the environment and communities are understood. This coordinated IRMS approach includes setting and achieving environmental, economic and social outcomes Albertans expect from resource development,

while maintaining the social licence to develop these resources. The five key IRMS partners are: the Ministry of Energy, the ACO, the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency, the AER and the former Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD).

The ACO is the lead agency for coordinating responses to all First Nation correspondents with IRMS concerns. These concerns pertain largely to land management and resource development, cumulative effects management, management of air, water and land, and biodiversity. ACO's role, as a part of the IRMS, is to support a coordinated approach to Aboriginal consultation, ensuring Alberta's duty to consult is fulfilled, clarifying the consultation process for all parties and seeking to reconcile First Nation Treaty rights with the interests of all Albertans through a meaningful consultation process.

The ACO has also taken actions to increase the efficiency of the First Nations consultation process, including:

- adding significant resources for First Nations consultation file review;
- developing the *Government of Alberta Proponent Guide to First Nations Consultation Procedures for Land Disposition (Proponent Guide)* for industry;
- creating data submission standards;
- technical training sessions for industry;
- cross-training of internal ACO staff to ensure effective response during periods of high demand;
- streamlining the administrative process;
- providing capacity funding to help enable First Nations to better participate in consultation processes; and
- meeting with First Nations to discuss the *Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management, 2013 (Policy)* and the consultation process.

The ACO held a number of meetings with the federal government including a November 2014 workshop to discuss consultation processes and opportunities to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the consultation process.

The ACO reviewed about 20,000 proposed activities for pre-consultation assessment through the Electronic Disposition System (EDS). The majority of these reviews were conducted within the timelines specified in the *Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with First nations on Land and Natural Resource Management (Guidelines)*. The ACO tracks timelines on a weekly basis. Assessment requests were reviewed within timelines 95 per cent of the time and consultation summary reviews were within timelines 97 per cent of the time. The ACO also reviewed an additional 2,000 or so activities for consultation requirements that are tracked outside of the EDS including applications for activities such as timber harvesting, flood mitigation, public land sale and livestock grazing.

Electronic Disposition System

The Electronic Disposition System (EDS) portal is used to process land disposition applications. The ACO and former ESRD enhanced the EDS system to increase the effectiveness of the consultation process by making the system more user friendly and allowing for additional activity types to be submitted electronically. Training modules and education sessions were developed for the ACO staff. Five training sessions were held from July 2014 to January 2015 to provide training to the ACO staff on submission of applications, review of the applications as per the *Guidelines* and *Proponent Guide*, issuing decisions and appropriate storage of electronic files.

GeoData Mapping Project

Development of GeoData maps is a performance measure for the ministry. This performance measure tracks the ministry's progress in implementing a strategy to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the First Nations consultation process. The ministry's target for 2014-15 was to develop GeoData maps for 60 per cent of First Nations in Alberta. This year's result of 69 per cent (33 of 48 First Nations with a GeoData map) exceeded the business plan target by nine percentage points.

The GeoData Mapping Project helps promote consistency, efficiency and due diligence with respect to Alberta's obligations to manage the First Nations consultation process. Led by Aboriginal Relations, the cross-government GeoData Mapping Committee has been working with First Nations to develop a series of electronic maps illustrating where First Nation rights and traditional use activities may be impacted by industry development or Government of Alberta resource development decisions. GeoData maps provide an important tool to guide decision-makers about which First Nations to contact regarding consultation for particular projects.

In phase one of the project, the GeoData Mapping Committee mapped hunting, fishing and trapping information specific to each First Nation. In phase two, this mapped information was shared with First Nations for comment. The purpose of the current phase of the project (phase three) is to work with each of Alberta's First Nations to arrive at a better representation of a consultation area for that First Nation.

In 2014-15, the GeoData Mapping Project continued its final phase of collecting geographic information directly from First Nations. Draft maps were developed and shared with First Nations, who were asked to submit any existing information that they were willing to share with Alberta.

During the fiscal year, the GeoData Mapping Committee received, compiled and analyzed further information submitted from six First Nations which resulted in more refined GeoData maps. By the end of the fiscal year, GeoData maps had been developed for 33 First Nations in Alberta.

First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Natural Resource Development

The *Policy* became effective on July 28, 2014 with the release of the *Guidelines*. The *Policy* supports the legal duty to consult by ensuring consultation occurs when First Nation's Treaty rights and traditional use may be adversely impacted by land management and natural resource

development activities, while at the same time creating a more certain business environment for industry. In May 2014, First Nations and industry stakeholders participated in six technical sessions held across the province to share the draft *Guidelines* and gather input on concepts regarding a proposed industry levy to support First Nation consultation capacity. Approximately 32 First Nations participated in these sessions, along with industry proponents. Complementing the *Guidelines* were a set of sector-specific consultation matrices to help Alberta consultation staff to better assess the scope of consultation required for each project application they receive.

In September 2014, the *Proponent Guide* was released to support the *Policy* and the *Guidelines*. The *Proponent Guide* was designed to provide further clarity on the procedures to be followed for lands disposition applications. Training sessions were held in fall 2014 with approximately 600 registrants to inform applicants about the consultation process. Industry feedback on the sessions was overwhelmingly positive. Based on the feedback received during the training sessions, an updated version of the *Proponent Guide* was released on February 3, 2015.

Metis Settlement Consultation

In accordance with the *Long-Term Arrangements (LTA)* agreement with Metis Settlements, the ministry developed the draft *Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with Metis Settlements on Land and Natural Resource Management, 2014 (Metis Settlements Consultation Policy)*. In November 2014, after several months of consultation, the draft *Metis Settlements Consultation Policy* was finalized for review. The draft *Metis Settlements Consultation Policy* is directed at providing increased certainty for Metis Settlements, government, natural resources development companies and other project proponents by providing direction respecting consultation with Metis Settlements. Significant work has been completed to increase the capacity of the Metis Settlements to participate in the consultation process. This work includes the relevant training, and the execution of consultation capacity funding agreements with each of the Settlements.

Aboriginal Relations is also engaged in a collaborative dialogue with the Metis Nation Alberta Association (MNAA) regarding consultation with non-Settlement Metis communities. In March 2015, Aboriginal Relations provided a $100,000 grant to the MNAA for participation in preliminary dialogue regarding off-Settlement Metis consultation.

Harmonization of Consultation Services with the Alberta Energy Regulator

The ACO works closely with the AER to ensure consistency and alignment with Alberta's regulatory processes. The AER was authorized in 2013 by the Government of Alberta to make decisions on applications for energy development, monitoring compliance assurance, decommissioning of developments and all other aspects of energy resource activities. In accordance with the *Responsible Energy Development Act* (REDA), the AER is excluded from determining the adequacy of First Nations consultation. A Ministerial Order by Alberta Energy directed the AER to request advice from the ACO about consultation and potential impacts to Treaty rights. In 2014, the ACO and AER worked with ESRD and Energy to update the Energy Ministerial Order so that interactions between the ACO and AER were better defined. In October

2014, the Energy Ministerial Order was replaced by former Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and Energy Ministerial Orders. The new Ministerial Orders require the AER to work with the ACO to develop operating procedures that set out how the AER and the ACO will cooperate to administer and coordinate their work. This resulted in the *Joint Operating Procedures for First Nations Consultation on Energy Resource Activities (Procedures)* that were released in March 2015. The *Procedures* describe internal procedures that were shared publicly in the interest of improving transparency regarding the interaction between the ACO and the AER. The *Procedures* do not change how the Crown consults with First Nations.

The ACO staff met regularly with the AER representatives to align consultation and regulatory processes including First Nations engagement in the AER's Play Based Regulation pilot. The Play Based Regulation pilot is an initiative of the AER and discussions on the pilot is an AER responsibility. The ACO ensures that any applications submitted under the pilot are consulted on adequately prior to decisions being made by the AER.

Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act

In 2014, the Government of Alberta sought feedback on the *Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act (ACLA)* from industry stakeholders and First Nations through discussions held in May, June and August 2014, written correspondence, and one-on-one meetings held with First Nations. First Nations throughout the province made it clear that the *ACLA* did not meet the needs of their communities. As a result, it was decided that the *ACLA* would not be implemented. Research and discussions with First Nations and industry provided the ACO with valuable information related to the consultation capacity needs of First Nations.

First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program

The First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program (FNCCIP) provides all First Nations in Alberta with a core investment to assist them in continued development of effective consultation structures, build their consultation staff capacity and fulfil their responsibilities within Alberta's consultation process. The secondary objective of the program is to assist in building relationships and partnerships between Aboriginal organizations and communities, industry and government.

A key outcome of the FNCCIP is a single point of contact in each First Nation to help ensure timely consultation with project proponents. Names of contacts for consultation purposes endorsed by the First Nation are provided in writing by First Nations and then posted on the Aboriginal Relations website.

Over $6 million in funding was provided through the FNCCIP, including the following:

- signed contribution agreements designating funding for all 48 First Nations, as well as Aseniwuche Winewak Nation, Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, Treaty 7 Management Corporation and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta;
- Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nations each received an additional $50,000 of funding to address impacts of the flood on consultation efforts; and

- Lubicon Lake Band is currently in a multi-year contribution agreement that provides $250,000 in funding to support a Traditional Use Study, which included $50,000 in funding for consultation capacity in 2014-15.

Land Claims

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claims arise when a First Nation did not receive all of the land to which it was entitled under the terms of a Treaty. Aboriginal Relations works with other ministries, the Government of Canada and First Nations on land-related negotiations, which includes TLE claims.

In October 2014, the Government of Alberta met with Lubicon Lake Band to discuss outstanding land claim issues. As part of the process, two discussion tables were established to concerning education and employment. A Negotiation Framework between the Government of Canada and the Lubicon Lake Band was signed in December 2014. The Framework lays out concurrent paths for advancing reserve creation pursuant to Treaty, planning for the community to be constructed on future reserve lands and defining a process to bring clarity as to how other Treaty-related grievances may be resolved.

In March 2015, the federal government announced the appointment of Ralph Peterson as the chief federal negotiator for the Lubicon Land claim. The resumption of formal negotiations is viewed as a major step in resolving the long-standing claim for the Lubicon Lake Band.

Bigstone Cree Land Claim and Fort McMurray Land Claim

In 2014-15, work continued on the implementation of the Canada-Alberta Agreement respecting the Bigstone Cree TLE claim. After several years, talks resumed on the outstanding treaty land entitlement claims of the Lubicon Lake Band and of the Fort McMurray First Nation.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended March 31, 2015

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Independent Auditor's Report

AUDITOR GENERAL Alberta

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015, and the statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations as at March 31, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher, FCA]

Auditor General
June 12, 2015
Edmonton, Alberta

Financial Statements

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	2015		2014
	CONSTRUCTED BUDGET	ACTUAL	RESTATED (NOTE 3) ACTUAL
Revenues (NOTE 2 AND SCHEDULE 1)			
Transfer from Government of Canada	$ -	$ -	$ 164,366
Other Revenue	-	115	56
	-	115	164,422
Expenses - Directly Incurred (NOTE 2b AND SCHEDULE 7)			
Programs (SCHEDULES 2 AND 3)			
Ministry Support Services	4,635	4,390	3,970
First Nations and Metis Relations	33,628	37,522	23,552
Aboriginal Women's Initiatives and Research	604	826	166
First Nations Development Fund	143,000	128,784	122,744
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,204	1,168	1,186
Consultation and Land Claims	16,683	13,906	11,892
Policy and Planning	1,210	1,348	1,123
2013 Alberta Flooding (NOTE 2)	4,960	6,150	192,874
	205,924	194,094	357,507
Net Operating Results	$ (205,924)	$ (193,979)	$ (193,085)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	2015	2014 RESTATED (NOTE 3)
Assets		
Accounts Receivable (NOTE 2 AND 4)	$ 164,445	$ 164,439
Advances	-	2
Tangible Capital Assets (NOTE 5)	247	194
	$ 164,692	$ 164,635
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities (NOTE 2)	$ 167,549	$ 212,124
Net Liabilities		
Net Liabilities at Beginning of Year	(47,489)	(58,104)
Net Operating Results	(193,979)	(193,085)
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	238,611	203,700
Net Liabilities at End of Year	(2,857)	(47,489)
	$ 164,692	$ 164,635

Contractual obligations and contingent liabilities (NOTES 6 AND 7).

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year ended March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	2015	2014 RESTATED (NOTE 3)
Operating Transactions		
Net Operating Results	$ (193,979)	$ (193,085)
Non-cash items included in Net Operating Results Amortization	64	62
	(193,915)	(193,023)
Increase in Accounts Receivable	(6)	(164,378)
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(44,575)	153,715
Cash Applied to Operating Transactions	(238,496)	(203,686)
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(117)	(12)
Investing Transactions		
Decrease (Increase) in Advances	2	(2)
Financing Transactions		
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	238,611	203,700
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	$ -	$ -

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations operates under the authority of the *Government Organization Act*, Chapter G-10, and Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

Aboriginal Relations' mission is to lead the development of government-wide policies, strategies and partnerships with Aboriginal organizations, governments and industry to support strong and vibrant Aboriginal families and communities fully participating in Alberta's economic future, and relationships contributing to world-leading resource stewardship. The ministry's core business is Aboriginal relationships, policies and initiatives.

The ministry fulfills this role by focusing on:

- Aboriginal communities and people fully participate in Alberta's economy and society.
- Alberta's coordinated approach to Aboriginal consultation and land claims enhances resource development certainty.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

(a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations (the ministry), for which the Minister of Aboriginal Relations is accountable. The Ministry Annual Report provides a more comprehensive accounting of the financial position and results of the Ministry's operations, for which the Minister is accountable.

All departments of the Government of Alberta operate within the General Revenue Fund (the Fund). The Fund is administered by the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance. All cash receipts of the ministry are deposited into the Fund and all cash disbursements made by ministry are paid from the Fund. Net Financing Provided from General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Cash received for which goods or services have not been provided by year end is recorded as deferred revenue.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (continued)

TRANSFERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Transfers from the Government of Canada are recognized as revenue when authorized by federal legislation or federal/provincial agreements, eligibility criteria if any are met and a reasonable estimate of the amounts can be made. The ministry recognizes Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements revenue when the Government of Canada issues an Order in Council declaring the Alberta disaster to be of a concern to the Government of Canada.

Expenses

DIRECTLY INCURRED

Directly incurred expenses are those costs for which the ministry has primary responsibility and accountability, as reflected in the Government's budget documents.

Grants are recorded as expenses when authorized and all eligibility criteria have been met.

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly

incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets,
- pension costs, which are the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year and
- valuation adjustments, which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay, guarantees and indemnities.

INCURRED BY OTHERS

Services contributed by other entities in support of the ministry's operations are not recognized and are disclosed in Schedule 6 and allocated to programs in Schedule 7.

Assets

Tangible capital assets of the ministry are recorded at historical cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing tangible capital assets is $5,000.

Amortization is only charged if the tangible capital asset is in use.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recorded to the extent that they represent present obligations as a result of events and transactions occurring prior to the end of the fiscal year. The settlement of liabilities will result in the sacrifice of economic benefits in the future.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (continued)

Net Liabilities

Net liabilities represent the difference between the carrying value of assets held by the ministry and its liabilities.

Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards require a "net debt" presentation for the statement of financial position in the summary financial statements of governments. Net debt presentation reports the difference between financial assets and liabilities as "net debt" or "net financial assets" as an indicator of the future revenues required to pay for past transactions and events. The ministry operates within the government reporting entity, and does not finance all its expenditures by independently raising revenues. Accordingly, these financial statements do not report a net debt indicator.

Measurement Uncertainty

(in thousands)

Measurement uncertainty exists when there is a variance between the recognized or disclosed amount and another reasonably possible amount.

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities include estimates for legal liabilities in the amount of $12,432 (2014 - $12,453) that are subject to measurement uncertainty, residing in the Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities line of the Statement of Financial Position. The estimates are based on legal assessments and standard support costs provided by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General.

Aboriginal Relations worked with housing experts in Alberta Municipal Affairs and accredited engineering firms in developing cost estimates recovery efforts on First Nation Land, which included temporary interim housing, inspection of damages to residences and public works, demolition and rebuilding residences, repairing affected residences, repair of affected public works, and administration.

Initial damages for First Nation Housing have been estimated at $191,477. Damage inspections are incomplete. As inspections are performed, cost estimates will be refined and eligibility of recovery under the Public Safety Canada's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) Guidelines will be reassessed.

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities for the 2013 Alberta Flood, disclosed as $118,213 (2014 - $156,600) for 2013 Alberta Flood and accounts receivable from Government of Canada, disclosed as $164,366 (2014 - $164,366) in these financial statements are subject to measurement uncertainty.

The Government of Canada accounts receivable $164,366 (2014 - $164,366) is related to the 2013 Alberta Flood that meet the eligibility criteria of the DFAA. The nature of the uncertainty for the Government of Canada accounts receivable and Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) accrued liabilities arises from changes in the actual disaster costs to the estimated disaster costs. These changes can be attributed to such factors as construction cost fluctuations,

receipt of eligible claims and the level of work and time required recovering from disaster events.

Federal Assistance

- Under the *Constitution Acts*. 91(24), First Nation Lands are under federal jurisdiction.
- Federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (Federal Minister) has committed and confirmed that eligible provincial costs for repairing and rebuilding primary residences and public works will be reimbursed in accordance DFAA guidelines.
- Expense submissions by the Province of Alberta to the Government of Canada as it relates to DFAA are subject to the Federal Minister's review.

Recoveries from the Federal Government

- Aboriginal Relations' Minister signed a memorandum of understanding with affected First Nations to repair and rebuild First Nation residences to provincial standards. DFAA guidelines will only reimburse expenses resulting from the flood. Final damage inspections will identify repairs required to meet provincial standards and will be required in order to determine eligibility under DFAA guidelines.

If factors considered by management in establishing the estimates change significantly, the ministry's accrued liability and accounts receivable could change substantially from current estimates.

2013 Alberta Flooding

The full recovery from the June 2013 flood in southern Alberta will take a number of years. The Province's flood recovery initiatives, through its Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) provides financial assistance to impacted individuals, small businesses, municipalities and government departments for uninsurable loss and damages. The DRP is administered and funded by Alberta Emergency Management Agency of the Department of Municipal Affairs through the Authority of the Disaster Recovery Regulation.

The ministry of Aboriginal Relations recognizes revenues from the federal government on an accrual basis based on recoveries through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) with the Government of Canada. The Government of Canada approved the DFAA through its Order in Council on July 3, 2013.

The ministry of Aboriginal Relations recognizes DRP expenses on an accrual basis when the Government of Alberta issued its Order in Council on June 25, 2013. These expenses are net of recovers from insurance and other third parties.

Also, the Province's flood recovery initiatives include non-disaster recovery programs (non – DRP). Costs associated with non-disaster recovery programs are recognized as they are incurred. These costs are net of recoveries from insurance and other third parties.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (continued)

ABORIGINAL RELATIONS – 2013 ALBERTA FLOOD

	2015	2014
Revenue DFAA	$ -	$ 164,366
First Nations Housing Expenses DFAA	-	164,366
First Nations Housing Expenses non DFAA	-	27,111
Total First Nation Housing Expenses	-	191,477
Administrative and Capacity Support	6,150	1,397
Total Expenses	$ 6,150	$ 192,874
Accounts Receivable Government of Canada	$ 164,366	$ 164,366
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	$ 118,213	$ 156,600

The assumption the ministry used to yield the DFAA amount of $164,366 for revenue and $192,874 for expenses has not changed from prior year to current year due to the existence of uncertainty. The amounts may be adjusted when there is sufficient support (signed contracts or invoices) to demonstrate the need for changes in the recoverable revenues or expenses amounts.

The ministry incurred $6,150 (2014 - $1,397) in expenses related to First Nation flood recovery administration and capacity support for the 2013 Southern Alberta Flood.

The accounts payable and accrued liabilities were reduced from $156,600 to $118, 213. The reduction of $38,387 was paid in the current year and is comprised of $34,530 in First Nation flood recovery costs incurred in the prior year but not yet paid and an additional $3,857 of First Nation flood recovery costs incurred and paid in the current year.

NOTE 3 GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, PRIOR PERIOD RESTATEMENT
(in thousands)

Prior Period Restatement

As of April 1, 2014, the responsibility of the Aboriginal Consultation Office was transferred to the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations from Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Also, effective April 1, 2014, responsibility for funding of one public affairs officer position was transferred from the Ministry of Executive Council to the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations where they had previously been seconded.

NOTE 3 GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, PRIOR PERIOD RESTATEMENT (continued)

Comparatives for 2014 have been restated as if the Ministry had always been assigned with its current responsibilities.

Net assets (liabilities) as previously reported at March 31, 2013	$ (58,002)
Transfer of Aboriginal Consultation Office from Environment and Sustainable Resource Development	(98)
Transfer from Ministry of Executive Council	(4)
Restated Net liabilities at March 31, 2013	$ (58,104)
Net Operating Results, as previously reported at March 31,2014	$ (191,059)
Transfer of Aboriginal Consultation Office from Environment and Sustainable Resource Development	(1,947)
Transfer from Ministry of Executive Council	(79)
Net Operating Results, as restated at March 31, 2014	$ (193,085)

NOTE 4 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
(in thousands)

Accounts Receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

	2015 NET REALIZABLE VALUE	2014 NET REALIZABLE VALUE
Transfer from Government of Canada	$ 164,366	$ 164,366
Accrued Receivable	77	73
Prepaid Expenses	2	-
Total	$ 164,445	$ 164,439

NOTE 5 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

(in thousands)

	2015			2014
	EQUIPMENT[a]	COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE	TOTAL	TOTAL
Estimated Useful Life	3-40 Years	3-10 Years		
Historical Cost				
Beginning of Year	$ 129	$ 464	$ 593	$ 581
Additions	109	8	117	12
Disposals, write-down	-	-	-	-
	$ 238	$ 472	$ 710	$ 593
Accumulated Amortization				
Beginning of Year	$ 102	$ 297	$ 399	$ 37
Amortization Expense	17	47	64	62
Effect of Disposals	-	-	-	-
	$ 119	$ 344	$ 463	$ 399
Net book value at March 31, 2015	$ 119	$ 128	$ 247	
Net book value at March 31, 2014	$ 27	$ 167		$ 194

[a] Equipment includes office equipment and furniture.

NOTE 6 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

(in thousands)

Contractual obligations are obligations of the ministry to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of those contracts or agreements are met.

	2015	2014
Service Contracts	$ 1,334	$ 44,448
Grants	71,592	79,231
	$ 72,926	$ 123,679

NOTE 6 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS (continued)

Estimated payment requirements for each of the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

	SERVICE GRANTS	GRANTS	TOTAL
2015 – 16	$ 1,324	$ 16,592	$ 17,916
2016 – 17	10	10,000	10,010
2017 – 18	-	10,000	10,000
2018 – 19	-	10,000	10,000
2019 – 20	-	10,000	10,000
Thereafter	-	15,000	15,000
	$ 1,334	$ 71,592	$ 72,926

NOTE 7 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES
(in thousands)

The ministry is involved in legal matters where damages are being sought. These matters may give rise to contingent liabilities.

Accruals have been made in specific instances where it is likely that losses will be incurred based on a reasonable estimate.

The ministry has been named in 1 (2014 – 1) claim of which the outcome is not determinable. This claim has a specified amount totaling $199 (2014 - $199) and is covered by the Alberta Risk Management Fund. The resolution of indeterminable claims may result in a liability, if any, that may be significantly lower than the claimed amount.

The ministry has been named in 29 (2014 – 27) claims in matters such as Aboriginal rights, Indian title and treaty rights. In most cases, these claims have been filed jointly and severally against the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and the Government of Canada and some cases involve third parties. Of these claims, 16 (2014 – 15) have specified amounts totaling $117,872,950 (2014 - $115,584,950) plus a provision for interest and other costs that are not determinable. The remaining 13 (2014 – 12) claims have no specified amounts. In addition, there are 3 claims (2014 – 5 claims) for treaty land entitlement for which the ministry may have an obligation under the *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement*.

NOTE 8 BENEFIT PLANS

(in thousands)

The ministry participates in the multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan, Public Service Pension Plan and Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $2,709 for the year ended March 31, 2015 (2014 - $1,952). Departments are not responsible for future funding of the plan deficit other than through contribution increases.

At December 31, 2014, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a surplus of $75,805 (2013 – surplus $50,547), the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $803,299 (2013 – deficiency $1,254,678), and the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers reported a deficiency of $17,203 (2013 – deficiency $12,384).

The department also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2015, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial surplus of $86,888 (2014 – surplus $75,200) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial surplus of $32,343(2014 – surplus $24,055). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 9 SUBSEQUENT EVENT

As of April 1, 2015 Ministry of Aboriginal Relation's will assume the administration of the Stewardship program from Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

NOTE 10 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain 2014 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2015 presentation.

NOTE 11 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved by the Senior Financial Officer and the Deputy Minister.

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SCHEDULE 1

Revenues

Year ended March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	2015		2014
	CONSTRUCTED BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
Revenue			
Transfer from Government of Canada (NOTE 2)	$ -	$ -	$ 164,366
Refund of Expenditure	-	115	56
Other	-	-	-
Total Revenues	$ -	$ 115	$ 164,422

SCHEDULE 2

Expenses - Directly Incurred Detailed by Object

Year ended March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	2015		2014
	CONSTRUCTED BUDGET	ACTUAL	RESTATED ACTUAL
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	$ 23,500	$ 19,667	$ 15,523
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits from Support Service Arrangements with Related Parties [a]	2,014	2,090	1,734
Supplies and Services	8,240	6,004	193,712
Supplies and Services from Support Service Arrangements with Related Parties [a]	739	657	509
Grants	171,300	165,565	145,899
Financial Transactions and Others	68	47	68
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	63	64	62
	$ 205,924	$ 194,094	$ 357,507

[a] The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations receives Information Management Technology, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, Finance, Administration, and Human Resource Services from the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations.

SCHEDULE 3

Lapse/Encumbrance

Year ended March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	VOTED ESTIMATE [1]	SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES [2]	ADJUSTMENTS [3]	ADJUSTED VOTED ESTIMATE	ACTUAL [4]	UNEXPENDED (OVER EXPENDED)
Program – Operational						
1. Ministry Support Services						
1.01 Minister's Office	$ 642	$ -	$ -	$ 642	$ 304	$ 338
1.02 Associate Minister's Office	-	-	-	-	138	(138)
1.03 Deputy Minister's Office	632	-	-	632	611	21
1.04 Communications	362	-	-	362	331	31
1.05 Corporate Services	2,936	-	-	2,936	2,927	9
	$ 4,572	$ -	$ -	$ 4,572	$ 4,311	$ 261
2. First Nations and Metis Relations						
2.1 First Nations and Metis Relations	$ 31,189	$ -	$ (4,095)	$ 27,094	$ 26,893	$ 201
2.2 Northern Alberta Development Council	2,439	-	-	2,439	2,032	$ 407
	$ 33,628	$ -	$ (4,095)	$ 29,533	$ 28,925	$ 608
3. Aboriginal Women's Initiatives and Research	$ 604	$ -	$ 100	$ 704	$ 782	$ (78)
4. Metis Settlements Ombudsman						
4. First Nations Development Fund	$ 143,000	$ -	$ -	$ 143,000	$ 128,774	$ 14,226
5. Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal						
6. Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	$ 1,204	$ -	$ -	$ 1,204	$ 1,162	$ 42
7. Consultation and Land Claims						
7.1 Program Support and Land Claims	$ 1,335	$ -	$ -	$ 1,335	$ 1,464	$ (129)
7.2 Aboriginal Consultation Office	15,348	-	(167)	15,181	12,214	$ 2,967
	$ 16,683	$ -	$ (167)	$ 16,516	$ 13,678	$ 2,838
Policy and Planning						
8. Policy and Planning	$ 1,210	$ -	$ 100	$ 1,310	$ 1,346	$ (36)
9. 2013 Alberta Flooding						
9.1 First Nations Housing	$ -	$ -	$ 6	$ 6	$ -	$ 6
9.2 Economic Renewal Initiative	200	-	-	200	200	-
9.3 Administrative and Capacity Support	4,760	-	1,806	6,566	5,932	634
	$ 4,960	$ -	$ 1,812	$ 6,772	$ 6,132	$ 640
Total	$ 205,861	$ -	$ (2,250)	$ 203,611	$ 185,110	$ 18,501
Lapse (Encumbrance)						$ 18,501

(continued)

[1] As per "Operational Vote by Program", "Voted Capital Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" pages 16 & 17 of 2014-15 Government Estimates.

[2] Per the Supplementary Supply Estimates approved on March 10, 2015

[3] Adjustments include encumbrances, capital carry forward amounts and credit or recovery increases approved by Treasury Board and credit or recovery shortfalls. An encumbrance is incurred when, on a vote by vote basis, the total of actual disbursements in the prior year exceed the total adjusted estimate. All calculated encumbrances from the prior year are reflected as an adjustment to reduce the corresponding Voted Estimate in the current Year.

[4] Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments.

SCHEDULE 3...continued

Lapse/Encumbrance

Year ended March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	VOTED ESTIMATE [1]	SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES [2]	ADJUSTMENTS [3]	ADJUSTED VOTED ESTIMATE	ACTUAL [4]	UNEXPENDED (OVER EXPENDED)
Program – Capital						
1. Ministry Support Services						
1.5 Corporate Services	$ 25	$ -	$ -	$ 25	$ 117	$ (92)
2. First Nations and Metis Relations						
2.1 First Nations and Metis Relations	$ -	$ 8,600	$ 2,250	$ 10,850	$ 8,600	$ 2,250
Total	$ 25	$ 8,600	$ 2,250	$ 10,875	$ 8,717	$ 2,158
Lapse (Encumbrance)						$ 2,158
Financial Transactions						
9. 2013 Alberta Flooding						
9.1 First Nations Housing	$ 96,161	$ -	$ -	$ 96,161	$ 3,857	$ 92,304
Total	$ 96,161	$ -	$ -	$ 96,161	$ 3,857	$ 92,304
Lapse (Encumbrance)						$ 92,304

[1] As per "Operational Vote by Program", "Voted Capital Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" pages 16 & 17 of 2014-15 Government Estimates.

[2] Per the Supplementary Supply Estimates approved on March 10, 2015

[3] Adjustments include encumbrances, capital carry forward amounts and credit or recovery increases approved by Treasury Board and credit or recovery shortfalls. An encumbrance is incurred when, on a vote by vote basis, the total of actual disbursements in the prior year exceed the total adjusted estimate. All calculated encumbrances from the prior year are reflected as an adjustment to reduce the corresponding Voted Estimate in the current Year.

[4] Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments.

SCHEDULE 4

Lottery Fund Estimates

Year Ended March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	2014-15 LOTTERY FUND ESTIMATES	2014-15 ACTUAL	UNEXPENDED
First Nations Development Fund	$ 143,000	$ 128,784	$ 14,216
First Nations and Métis Relations	200	-	200
	$ 143,200	$ 128,784	$ 14,416

The revenue of the Lottery Fund is transferred to the Department of Treasury Board and Finance on behalf of the General Revenue Fund in 2014-2015. Having been transferred to the General Revenue Fund, these monies then become part of the Ministry's supply vote. This table shows details of the initiatives within the Ministry that are funded by the Lottery Fund and compares it to the actual results.

SCHEDULE 5

Salary and Benefit Disclosure

Year ended March 31, 2015

	2015				2014
	BASE SALARY [1]	OTHER CASH BENEFITS [2]	OTHER NON-CASH BENEFITS [3]	TOTAL	TOTAL
Deputy Minister [4] [5]	$ 266,899	$ 18,963	$ 60,408	$ 346,270	$ 326,947
Executives					
Assistant Deputy Minister - First Nations and Métis Relations [4]	182,836	1,850	47,759	232,445	220,355
Assistant Deputy Minister - Consultation and Land Claims	242,037	1,850	10,109	253,996	253,133
Assistant Deputy Minister - Aboriginal Women's Initiatives & Research	169,756	1,850	47,210	218,816	101,649
Assistant Deputy Minister - Corporate Services [6]	197,488	1,850	49,737	249,075	236,227
Executive Director - Policy and Planning	161,673	32,706	43,466	237,845	216,174

[1] Base salary includes pensionable base pay and earnings such as acting pay.

[2] Other cash benefits include vacation payouts and lump sum payments. There were no bonuses paid in 2015.

[3] Other non-cash benefits include government's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, supplementary retirement plans, health care, dental coverage, health spending account, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, professional memberships and tuition fees.

[4] The position was occupied by two individuals at different times. Full salary and benefits are disclosed in this schedule.

[5] Automobile provided, no dollar amount included in other non-cash benefits.

[6] The incumbent's services are shared with the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations which contributes its own share of the cost of salary and benefits. Full salary and benefits are disclosed in this schedule.

SCHEDULE 6

Related Party Transactions

Year Ended March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Government of Alberta's financial statements. Related parties also include key management in the Ministry.

These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this Schedule.

The Ministry had the following transactions with related parties recorded on the Statement of Operations and the Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	2015	2014
Expenses – Directly Incurred		
Supplies and services provided by other ministries	$ 151	$ 223
Liabilities		
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	$ -	$ 31,526

The above transactions do not include support service arrangement transactions disclosed in Schedule 2.

The Ministry also had the following transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not recorded in the financial statements but are disclosed in Schedule 7.

	2015	2014 RESTATED
Expenses – Incurred by Others:		
Accommodation	$ 1,372	$ 1,585
Legal services	2,335	1,291
Air transportation	255	240
Business services & other	805	702
	$ 4,767	$ 3,818

SCHEDULE 7

Allocated Costs

Year Ended March 31, 2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	2015						2014
		EXPENSES INCURRED BY OTHERS					RESTATED
PROGRAM	EXPENSES[1]	ACCOM-MODATION COSTS[2]	LEGAL SERVICES[3]	AIR TRANS-PORTATION[4]	BUSINESS SERVICES & OTHER[5]	TOTAL EXPENSES	TOTAL EXPENSES
Ministry Support Services	$ 4,390	$ 90	$ 185	$ -	$ 53	$ 4,718	$ 4,455
First Nations and Metis Relations	37,522	441	482	127	259	38,831	24,705
Aboriginal Women's Initiatives and Research	826	41	-	-	24	891	166
First Nations Development Fund	128,784	76	-	-	45	128,905	122,886
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,168	48	-	-	28	1,244	1,277
Consultation and Land Claims	13,906	614	1,668	128	360	16,676	13,736
Policy and Planning	1,348	62	-	-	36	1,446	1,226
2013 Alberta Flooding	6,150	-	-	-	-	6,150	192,874
	$ 194,094	$ 1,372	$ 2,335	$ 255	$ 805	$ 198,861	$ 361,325

(1) Expenses - Directly Incurred as per Statement of Operations.

(2) Costs shown for Accommodation on Schedule 6, allocated by full time equivalent.

(3) Costs shown for Legal services on Schedule 6, allocated by estimated costs incurred by each program.

(4) Air transportation costs based on 50/50 split.

(5) Other costs include Service Alberta and Treasury Board and Finance expenses not billed.

ANNUAL REPORT EXTRACTS AND OTHER STATUTORY REPORTS

Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

Section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* reads:

32 (1) Every chief officer must prepare a report annually on all disclosures that have been made to the designated officer of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature for which the chief officer is responsible.

(2) The report under subsection (1) must include the following information:

(a) the number of disclosures received by the designated officer, the number of disclosure acted on and the number of disclosures not acted on by the designated officer.

(b) the number of investigations commenced by the designated officer as a result of disclosures.

(c) in the case of an investigation that results in a finding of wrongdoing, a description of the wrongdoing and any recommendations made or corrective measures taken in relations to the wrongdoing or the reasons why no corrective measure was taken.

(3) The report under subsection (1) must be included in the annual report of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature if the annual report is made publicly available...on request.

There were no disclosures during the fiscal year of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. Therefore the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations has nothing to report pursuant to the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* for 2014-15.

Aboriginal Relations

Annual Report

2014-15

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